



2014 REDC Board of Directors back row L to R: Alan Seigfreid, Chip Gifford, Craig Averett, Randy Olson, Gary Schoepp, Leif Anderson, Russ Fullmer, and Shane Gorder. Front row L to R: Cami Skinner, Tami Christensen, Leslie Messer, Katie Dasinger, Jackie Washechek, Pam Burman, and Linette Miller. Not pictured: Bill Henderson, Tara Hill, Walt McNutt, Mark Rehbein, and Don Steinbeisser.

2014 RED officers: During the January meeting of the Richland Economic Development Board of Directors, the new officers were installed.

Russ Fullmer will serve as President, Chip Gifford will serve as Vice President, Jackie Washechek will serve as Treasurer, and Pam Burman will serve as Secretary.



Russ Fullmer, Chip Gifford, Jackie Washechek, and Pam Burman

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2013 REDC Annual Meeting: Our meeting was held on Tuesday, November 12, at the Elks Lodge. Over 90 people participated to enjoy the evening with us.

Executive Director Leslie Messer presented an overview of REDC’s activities and accomplishments. Highlights included: legislative efforts, Eastern MT Impact Coalition efforts, PBS and Forbes interviews, congressional tours, IAP Eagles Landing housing community, recruitment efforts, and business expansion efforts.

We were pleased to introduce our new Project Assistant, Katie Dasinger, to the membership. Katie joined us in late October. We appreciate the support of our membership, and strive to make our annual meetings a worthwhile event. We also value your participation and input to improve our economy.





Jason Rittal, Leslie Messer, Martin DeWitt, and Jim Atchison provide an update on Coalition activities.

Montana World Trade Center (MWTC) Canadian Trade Mission: At the September Economic Summit in Butte, Senator Max Baucus announced that the MWTC would be conducting a Canadian Trade Mission in the Bakken.

Our office was contacted in mid-October to facilitate the tour in Montana. We opened with breakfast at Richland County Extension. Then we toured the Hi-Land Partners gasification plant, as well as KC Sand & Transport.



Montana Economic Developers Association (MEDA) Fall Conference: We were extremely pleased to host the fall conference here in Sidney. Over 75 statewide economic professionals attended the event. The two and half day conference was jam packed with professional training, presentations on best method practices, tours of the county, tours, and lots of great food, food, FOOD!

The audience heard welcomes and reports from both the City of Sidney and the Richland County Commissioners. They were very impressed by the development and growth of our area. The evaluations were glowing and reflected the success of this venture.



LT Gov. John Walsh speaks to luncheon attendees at the Sidney Country Club

A two hour luncheon followed, with guest speaker, LT Gov John Walsh, honoring our Vets, and speaking in support of the Keystone Pipeline.



Company to company networking at Eagles Landing during the Canadian Trade Mission

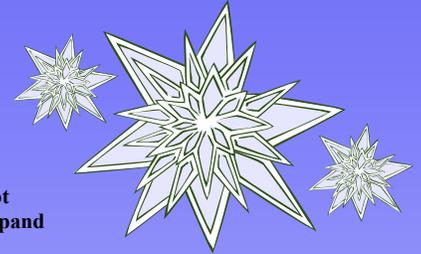
Next we conducted a three hour, company to company networking opportunity at Eagle's Landing. The day wrapped up with a banquet. The foundation for some great opportunities within the Bakken have been presented. We were pleased to collaborate with the MWTC on this mission.





Leslie Messer and Nancy Verschoot present Marci Albin her loan to expand the Lucky Buckle.

RLF Recipient



Richland Economic Development Corp is pleased to announce that the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) committee has awarded its tenth loan for the expansion of an existing business in Sidney. Marci and Michael Albin, a brother – sister team, were approved for a loan to launch “The Lucky Buckle” in its new location at the Shops at Fox Run.

The Albins completed an application in partnership with their lead lender, Nancy Verschoot, Richland Federal Credit Union, (RFCU), and presented their project to the RLF committee for review. The funding request was for the purchase of inventory and fixtures. The Lucky Buckle is a small clothing and gift shop with a little bit of western flare. It provides products such as: juniors, women’s, and men’s clothing items, fashion accessories such as jewelry, purses, belts, women’s shoes, and baby gift items. In addition, they offer home accessories such as candle holders, frames, wine glasses, wall décor, floral, and furniture. The Albins’ have also added a small coffee bar for convenience, and to enrich the shopping experience.

The RLF committee is pleased to assist Marci and Michael in their new business venture. The intent of the RLF is to offer an additional tool to support new business and business expansion projects. RFCU Nancy Verschoot, states: “We’re glad to have the opportunity to assist with this project. The Lucky Buckle will do very well at the new location. We wish them the very best.”

Richland Economic Development Corp encourages existing businesses and new business start up projects to consider the RLF as a resource. The RLF loan pool of \$1,000,000 is not free money, but an investment made by the Richland County Commissioners, to assist in the development of business in our economy. The application and review process is achievable, and done in conjunction with the area financial institutions in Richland County. If you or someone you know is thinking of expanding or launching a new business in Richland County, contact any of the local financial institutions or Richland Economic Development Corp today for an application!

January 2014 Newsletter

Business Expansions and Ribbon Cuttings



Marci Albin and staff of the Lucky Buckle hosted their grand opening on November 23rd.

The new store features a larger floor plan to accommodate the extended lines. The new coffee bar sends delicious scents to tantalize the senses of the customer as well.

We are proud to support these businesses in their endeavors.



Reynolds Market ribbon cutting and grand opening ceremony:

Reynolds Market opened their new facility on November 19. The staff gave flowers to the attendees of the event. The spacious new floor boasts a wider selection of the items that shoppers are seeking. The store has the gleam of an upscale big city grocery chain, however still leverages the charm of the small town feel we love.

Cape Air Ribbon Cutting:



LaVanchie Starkey, Leslie Messer, Lola Herbert, Shane Gorder, Loren Young, Linda Markham, Dan Wolf, Bill Henderson, Walt McNutt, Alan Seigfreid, and Troy Jensen participate in the rib-

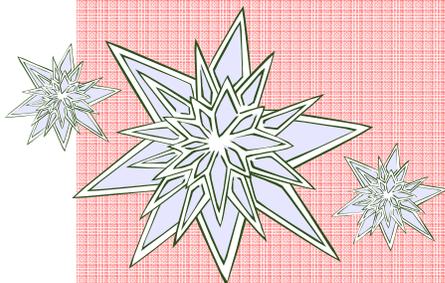
December 10, 2013 was a momentous day, as the new Essential Air Service provider, Cape Air, hosted their official ribbon cutting ceremony. Cape Air operates a fleet of over 75 Cessna 402s, 3 Britten-Norman Islanders and 2 ATRs, with up to 500 flights per day during high season. Last year Cape Air carried over 735,000 passengers, making them one of the largest independent regional airlines in the United States. Cape Air is recognized for their outstanding customer service and convenient hourly flights. They have ticket and baggage agreements with most major airlines which means smooth connections and money-saving joint fares for the passengers.

CEO Dan Wolf welcomed the community to the ribbon cutting, and assured us that Cape Air is in the community as a vested partner.

Cape Air is pleased to service the residents of Sidney and Richland County, and REDC was pleased to welcome them to our area



CEO and Founder, Dan Wolf
(photo courtesy of Cape Air)





Leslie Messer, Tami Christensen, Elizabeth Transue, Manager, Leslie Hagler, Director, and Patricia Reynolds, Board President



PPL Community Fund Award: Tami Christensen, was appointed onto the PPL Community Fund Advisory Board, in 2013. The board meets in the spring and fall to distribute \$200,000 annually. Eligible applicants receive funding in the areas of education, the environment, or economic development.

Since the fund was established in 2005, \$1.9 million in grants has been awarded to nearly 230 organizations across the state that are touching the lives of thousands of people and, as a result, improving the quality of life for all Montanans.

On November 19, 2013, PPL Affairs Manager, Lisa Perry asked Tami and Leslie Messer, former PPL Advisory Board director, to accompany her for the presentation of an award in Richland County.

S.A.V.A.G.E., Inc. received \$7,500 for the remodeling of the Savage Sunrise Manor's assisted living bathrooms. This funding is instrumental in upgrading the restrooms to become ADA compliant and improve the residents' safety.

Our office is pleased to promote funding opportunities and successes to the residents of Richland County. If you are a school or a non-profit, (501 (c) 3) and if you have a great project that might fit within the categories addressed above, please contact the Richland Economic Development office. Or, if you would like more information on the PPL Community Fund, please log on to: www.pplmontana.com and click on "Community Fund".



REDC Newsletter

A NON-PROFIT COUNTY WIDE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



Richland Economic Development Corp

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